

Applicants : Anne Marie Schmidt, et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 17, 19-21, 34 and 35 are pending in the subject application. No claim has been added, canceled or amended herein. Accordingly, claims 17, 19-21, 34 and 35 are still pending and under examination.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 17, 19-21 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Chintala et al (Cancer Lett 103:201-208, 1996) ("Chintala").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 17, 19-21 and 34.

Claims 17, 19-21 and 34 provide a method for evaluating the ability of an agent to inhibit tumor cell spreading which comprises: (a) admixing with cell culture media an effective amount of an agent known to inhibit the interaction between a tumor cell and an extracellular matrix molecule; (b) contacting a tumor cell in cell culture with media from step (a); (c) determining the amount of spreading of the tumor cell in the cell culture; and (d) comparing the amount of spreading of the tumor cell determined in step (c) with the amount determined in the absence of the agent, thus evaluating the ability of the agent to inhibit tumor cell spreading.

For a reference to anticipate the instant invention, it would have to teach *all the elements thereof*.

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Chintala fails to teach each and every element of the claimed method. Rather, Chintala teaches that when two glioblastoma cell lines, SNB19 and U251, are treated with antibodies to $\alpha 3\beta 1$ and $\alpha 5\beta 1$ integrins, there is an *increase* in the invasive ability of the tumor cells. Chintala fails to teach the instant method for evaluating the ability of an agent to *inhibit tumor cell spreading*. The Examiner has not clearly set forth how this reference teaches *each and every step* of the claimed method. Accordingly, applicants maintain that Chintala fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

The Examiner also rejected claims 17, 19-21, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Seftor et al (PNAS 89:1557-1561, 1992) ("Seftor").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 17, 19-21, 34 and 35.

Claims 17, 19-21, 34 and 35 are discussed above.

Seftor fails to teach each and every element of the claimed method. Rather, Seftor teaches that when A375M human melanoma cells are treated with antibodies to the $\alpha 3\beta 1$ integrin or soluble vitronectin, there is an *increase* in the invasive ability of the tumor cells. Like Chintala, Seftor fails to teach the instant method for evaluating the ability of an agent to *inhibit tumor cell spreading*. The Examiner has not clearly set forth how this reference teaches *each and every step* of the claimed method. Accordingly, applicants maintain that Seftor fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

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In view of the above remarks, applicants maintain that claims 17, 19-21, 34 and 35 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Summary

For the reasons set forth hereinabove, applicants respectfully request that all the claims of this application be allowed, and that the application proceed to issuance.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Communication. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF; Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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12/24/03

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